

# Distributed Network Storage System With Virtualization

## Abstract

The present invention is directed to a data storage system for use in achieving distributed data storage over a computer network. One embodiment of the data storage system comprises a storage server system that is comprised of one or more storage servers that each provide data storage, a management server system that is comprised of one or more management servers that each provide management functionality relating to the storage server system, and a driver that is capable of being associated each of the application clients that are to utilize the data storage system. A data storage configuration identifier structure whose value is updated when there is a change to the composition of the storage system or storage allocation within the storage system is used to manage data transfers between the storage system and application clients.